

Editorial Page of "The Capital Journal"

CHARLES H. FISHER,
Editor and Manager.

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IGNORANCE ABOUT EUROPEAN WAR

The Oregonian is pessimistic about the intelligence of the American people, or perhaps to be correct, about the application of that intelligence. It calls attention to the ignorance of the average American as to the cause of the European war, its leaders, location of its principle battles and in fact about everything connected with it.

It refers moreover, to the ignorance displayed by the students at the various colleges, where certain questions as to the war were asked, and only about 60 per cent of the answers were correct. Our big contemporary blames the college faculties for this, saying they have the students delving in ancient history to the exclusion of the world-stirring events that are now making history. This may be true as to the college youngsters, but how about the great mass of the people? How many business men could answer those same questions?

How many of the lawyers or doctors in Oregon could tell the name of the sultan of Turkey or where the battle of the Marne was fought? How many of them could tell whom that decisive battle was fought by or what its immediate results were? How many could name the president of France, the capital of Bulgaria, the situation of Riga, the ruler of Bulgaria and his title, or any of a hundred questions of that kind?

Yet these business and professional men are not delving in ancient or any other history. They along with most other American citizens read the daily papers and the news of the war. They do not, however, undertake to follow the news intelligently by looking up the location of the battlefields or by using their maps getting an intelligent idea of the war zones.

They and other Americans have about as indistinct an idea about the whole affair as the citizens of the east used to have about the west. All they knew was that it was out toward the Pacific coast somewhere, and that everybody there wore chaps and carried deadly revolvers. Montana and Arizona were side by side so far as they knew, or cared; and there are many yet who still have these same ideas.

The college boys showed, we think, remarkable knowledge of the war history and geography as compared with the average citizen.

Most newspapermen know the situation pretty well, for it is their business to understand it, and yet how many of them here in Oregon where they will average as high in intelligence as anywhere, can answer 50 per cent of the questions asked the college boys?

With most of them all the spare time is taken up chasing the dictionary in a vain effort to spell the names of the places the misguided European world is fighting at, in, or over.

It is strange what niceties of distinction the human mind is capable of making. The negro chauffeur, who ran away with a white woman, his employer's wife, with whom he had been on unduly friendly terms for nearly a year, says that when he and the woman reached Salt Lake City, he left the woman at a rooming house but later, learning the house was not "respectable," he removed her from it to a hotel that was. Chevalier Bayard himself could not have been more careful about guarding the reputation of a woman than was this mulatto chauffeur. Saxe had just such a case in mind when he wrote, "Jennie is much concerned God wot, For the good name she hasn't got."

Wheat is up to \$1.15 a bushel in the Portland market and firm at that. Probably democratic free trade is just beginning to get in its work, and is having the same effect it has had on wool, sugar beets, and almost every other product from which the tariff was removed.

Professor H. C. Adams says there will be no revolution against the monarchy in China and the southern revolt leaders will be crushed shortly. As Adams is the advisor of the new Chinese monarch, his remarks are not entirely free from bias.

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SAVINGS DEPARTMENT

Society folks of the northwest, says a St. Paul dispatch, are not now using the names of all their discarded husbands. So it seems the hypenated social leader is to go out of style too. It is pleasing to note, however, that the ladies are wearing their names shorter, and this will be appreciated by the society editors. Mrs. Reginald Woodruffe Worthington has cut out Woodruffe and is just R. G. Worthington. Mrs. Roger Marmaduke-Handrom-Wessington no longer uses the names of all the husbands she has annexed, wearing them as a string of matrimonial pearls, or scalps won in legal battles, but just uses the Wessington until she acquires another and puts Wessington with the other scalp locks.

Minority Leader Mann seems rightly named. He manfully remarks that the country's interests should always be regarded as greater than any partisan consideration, and then proceeds to make good his words by voting that way also. Not many leaders in either party are so honest and courageous, and the republican party, in its hunt for a presidential candidate, might go further and fare worse than to select the manly Mann, who is a patriot first and a politician afterward.

The London Post says the English are not well liked in America, and consequently that no especial effort should be made to conciliate the United States. The people of the United States ask no conciliatory measures from England or any other country. They want their legitimate business let alone, their rights recognized, and nothing more. While England need not go out of her way to conciliate America, she will do well not to go out of her way to harass and annoy her.

James Coats, of Los Angeles, whose wife is in the hospital and his babies being cared for by strangers, called on the district attorney yesterday and filed a complaint against himself for "non-support." He is strong and willing to work, and as he could not get a job asked to be sent to the rock pile. While such conditions exist, the falling off in immigration due to the European war will not be regretted by American laborers.

Officials of Utah are in doubt as to whether or not they can hold the mulatto, Dodd, on a criminal charge. When a white woman persuades a colored man to run away with her and foots the bills can he be held for white slavery? That is somewhat of a stumper of a question, but one the officials must decide. Is he a white slaver or the woman a black slaver?

The principal trouble with Oregon is that it has too much stomach. Its legs have not been developed as rapidly as its paunch and are consequently unable to carry the latter around. Portland is the stomach.



DOWN AND OUT.

The bum comes trembling to your door, he's starved and cold and weak and sore. Through whiskers full of snow and ice, he humbly begs you for the price. No doubt he is a lazy skate, who never tries to pay the freight; no doubt he loafs on summer days, when every busy farmer pays a handsome wage to those who'll toil, and push the plowshare through the soil. No doubt he is a chronic shirk, who has it in for honest work. No doubt the kopeck you bestow will to the grog dispenser go. Yet loosen up, nor ask the bo if Rum has brought him down so low. And can the helpful moral spiel that you have wound upon your reel, all suffering to be unwound; for snow is deep upon the ground, and bitter is the winter air, and hunger means a bleak despair. Jack up the beggar man in May, if he won't help to put up hay; but when he teeters to your door, to touch you for a dime or more, upon a freezing winter morn, dig up, dig up, nor point with scorn.

Bethel News Notes

(Capital Journal Special Service.)
Battle Creek people are having another very exciting time over who is to be road supervisor. It is nearly as bad as the railroad that was to be built through this neighborhood. But it is hoped by the people of Battle Creek that they get a road supervisor at last.
Hans Deuritz has been very busy drawing rock so as to pave around the barn.
Mr. E. T. Bush has a sick horse.
Mr. Mickenham's little son has been very sick but is much better now.
Alva Morris has been sick so that he lost three or four days of school.
The Battle Creek school took no vacation on account of the snow. But some of the children that lived too far from school stayed at home. The number of children going to school is twenty and their teacher is Miss Alma Baker of Turner.
E. T. Crowlan and family have been sick with the gripe the past week.
Miss Anna Nenschwander is visiting in Weolham.

POLK COUNTY ENJOINED.

Claiming that the county court of Polk county has levied an illegal assessment of five mills against the property located within the corpor-

A QUEER CELEBRATION.

Washington, Jan. 26.—President Wilson received an invitation from Miss Mellicie Fancher, a Brooklyn invalid, asking him to attend her "golden jubilee" February 3. On that day she will complete 50 years in bed.

STATE NEWS

Medford Mail Tribune.—R. W. Meadows, who lives at the corner of Portland and Eleventh streets this city, went up Bear creek Saturday evening to look for game. At an early stage of the quest he was happily surprised to find eight saucy racoons in one tree—and not a very large tree either. He lost no time in getting busy about that cropload of game; and, when he had finished the job, six racoons bagged by shooting from the seventh was captured without hurting it. The eighth got away. If any ambitious Nimrod in the county can beat the result of this "coon hunt in one short evening," he's next.

Coos Bay Harbor.—E. F. Russell, manager of the Oregon Wood Products Co., is shipping out a car load of enufflower crates today. This is the fifth car he has shipped and has a large order ahead. The factory is running steadily and gives employment to seven to ten men. The broom handle business has been given up for the present on account of a slack market. The company has a large quantity in stock and supplies small orders when they are needed.

Announcing a new enterprise for Joseph, the Herald says: "Among the industries outlined for Joseph by our Commercial club is a woolen mill, and plenty of outside capital is being interested in this very worthy project. Joseph is the trading point of one of the largest wool centers in the United States and therefore is an ideal location, with the finest water power in the entire country."

Ethnographic note in Aurora Observer.—"It is said that all western railroads have given sub rosa instructions to train crews to allow eastbound hoboes to ride freight trains without molestation. If true, that is doubtless the cause of the scarcity of the genus hobo this winter in the Willamette valley. Less is heard this season of idle men than in years before in this section. The Alaska robin and the chickadee are the foolhardy hordes this winter."

Stanfield Standard.—About 20 men gathered at the Fredericksen ranch last Sunday and held a rabbit drive. The small number of hunters only permitted a drive over a front of about half a mile. When the corral was reached about 100 rabbits were found there.

Permits for irrigating 87,320 acres of land, developing 30,796 horsepower and storing 285,000 acre-feet of water were issued last year by State Engineer Lewis. The permits totaled 580 and the total estimated cost of all the projects under them is \$5,749,152.

"An indication that business is on the up grade," says the Newberg Enterprise, "is found in the fact that the Spaulding Logging company now has orders for more than 1,250,000 feet of lumber. The company has completed two buildings for the making of silos—one 18x160 and the other 48x96. A new dry kiln has also been built."

With the lumber companies increasing their payrolls in logging camps and mills and the brightest outlook in mining in 10 years, the Baker Democrat declares that things look good for community prosperity in Baker county.

Forty additional street lights will soon be placed on dark streets in Ashland.

W. Lair Thompson Is a Candidate for Senator

W. Lair Thompson, of Lakeview, today filed at the office of the secretary of state as candidate for state senator, republican party, from the Seventeenth Senatorial District, comprising Crook, Jefferson, Klamath and Lake counties. Mr. Thompson fails to commit himself in the following statement: "During my term of office faithfully and to the best of my ability perform the duties pertaining to the office of state senator."

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LITTLE TALKS ON THRIFT

By S. W. STRAUS
President American Society for Thrift



While the saving of money is only one aspect of thrift, it is very important, especially because of its influence on character building. It also is more tangible, and affords easier means of obtaining statistics. It can be taken for granted generally that one who is thrifty with one's money, also will be thrifty with one's time.

Happily, Americans are becoming more thrifty; but the most thrifty citizens in this country are those of foreign birth. "Economy is a great revenue," said Cicero, and the postal savings deposits in this country would seem to bear him out in this statement. The Postal Savings System is designed to promote thrift and economy. Although everyone has easy access to it, it is utilized for the most part by the wage earners. Mr. Alexander M. Dockery, Third Assistant Postmaster-General, is authority for the statement that 59 per cent of all the depositors at the close of the last fiscal year were born outside of the United States and owned 72 per cent of all the money on deposit. The statistics show that the Russians own 20 per cent of all the deposits to their credit. The Italians are next with

14.2 per cent. Natives of Great Britain and her colonies rank third, with 8.8 per cent. Austrians come next with 8.7 per cent. These are followed by Hungarians with 4.3 per cent; Germans, with 4.1 per cent; Swedes with 2.2 per cent; and Greeks with 1.8 per cent. There are a number of other nationalities that own 7 per cent of the deposits. New York leads all the other states with a deposit account of \$21,186,916; Illinois, \$5,098,146; Pennsylvania, \$4,700,112; Ohio, \$4,546,699; California, \$3,772,053; Massachusetts, \$3,188,284; Michigan, New Jersey and Washington, each have more than \$2,000,000, and Minnesota and Missouri have nearly that amount; Oregon, Wisconsin and Colorado have reached the \$1,500,000 mark.

The popularity of the Postal Savings System and the rapidity of its growth may be seen from the fact that during the six months of the fiscal year 1911 when the system was first in operation, the deposits were \$677,145. At the close of the fiscal year, June 30, 1915, the deposits were \$65,684,708. At the end of the fiscal year 1911 the number of depositors was 11,918; at the end of the fiscal year 1915 the depositors numbered 325,514. It is estimated that on the 30th of November the number had increased to 500,000, with a net deposit account of \$7,500,000. The net profit from postal savings for the year reached \$41,028,441.

It will be seen from the foregoing that thrift is on the increase in the United States; at the rate among credit. The Italians are next with

WAR NEWS ONE YEAR AGO

The Croonne battle, near Soissons was the most desperate of the way to date the Germans losing 1600 men in a single attack. The Turks again invaded the Russian advance in East Prussia.

Two More Bodies Are Recovered From Slide

Seattle, Wash., Jan. 26.—Searching parties found the bodies of Mrs. Fern Wallace and her infant daughter, of Lyons, Wash., buried under eight feet of snow, at the scene of the Corn land slide disaster late yesterday afternoon. No bruises were on the bodies and it was apparent that the mother tried to shield the child during the plunge down the mountain side. The child's arms embraced the mother's neck.
Only two names remain in the missing list. They are Ralph Batterman of Wenatchee, the eight year old boy whose father and sister were killed in the slide, and J. R. Wilson, of Vancouver, B. C.

TURKEY WANTS PEACE

Zurich, Jan. 26.—Distinguished of Turkish diplomats have arrived here to prepare peace proposals, La Suisse stated today. It was said that the strained condition of the Turk finances had made Turkey desirous of gaining peace.

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